Visit of Japanese Foreign Minister

1804. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what advancement has been made towards establishment of relationship for strategic cooperation with Japan during the recent visit of Japanese Foreign Minister during the first week of January 2006; and

(b) whether proposal for disarmament/non-proliferation were discussed during the visit, if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Taro Aso to India from January 3-4, 2006, India and Japan agreed to conduct Foreign Minister-level talks with a strategic perspective and utilise the existing Foreign Office Consultations at Secretary/Deputy Minister-level to prepare for the Foreign Minister-level dialogue.

(b) Yes. The two sides agreed to launch an annual dialogue on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Declaration of Civilian Nuclear Power

1805. SHRI VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sign declaration for civilian nuclear power with other development countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken for the same and the countries approached/ discussed for the above purpose;

(c) if so, the details of terms and conditions under discussion/ finalised with the above countries;

(d) if so, whether the above agreements/terms and conditions suggest the separation of various nuclear energy utility services; and 1

(e) if so, the details including the countries/country that suggested above conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (e) Government has placed considerable importance on nuclear energy in its energy mix, as it provides